


LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

Approved: 1/13/88


J. Burton Angelle

BOARD MEETING

January 7, 1988

JOE PALMISANO, JR.
Chairman

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

AGENDA

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

January 7, 1988

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MINUTES OF MEETING OF
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

18 1, 1987

Chairman Joe Palmisano presiding:

Wednesday, January 6, 1988 - 2:00 PM

Jack Cappel
Don Hines
James Jenkins
Warren Pol
Dale Vinet
Lyle Crain

Friday, January 7, 1988 - 10:00 AM

Jack Cappel
Don Hines
James Jenkins
Warren Pol
Dale Vinet
Lyle Crain

Mr. J. Burton Angelle was also present.

The minutes of the meeting of December 4, 1987 were approved with correction with a motion from Mr. Vinet, seconded by Mr. Pol and approved unanimously.

Phil Bowman presented a resolution to describe the oyster public seed ground east of the Mississippi River. Mr. Pol moved to accept the resolution, seconded by Mr. Vinet and the motion carried.

(The full text of the resolution
is made a part of the record)

WHEREAS, R. S. 56:434A authorizes the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to set aside areas for use as oyster seed grounds, and

WHEREAS, as an area east of the Mississippi River has been used as an oyster seed ground for approximately 40 years, and

WHEREAS, a recent review of Commission regulation has shown a comprehensive description of the public oyster seed area

east of the Mississippi River was not properly promulgated as set forth in the Administrative Procedures Act, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the enclosed maps shall be designated as a description of the oyster seed grounds east of the Mississippi River until such time as funds become available to commission a comprehensive, up-to-date survey and description of the oyster seed grounds.

Corky Perret again updated the federal regulations for closing of exclusive economic zone for Redfish, King Mackerel and Spanish mackerel. Corky stated that the quota on king mackerel and Spanish mackerel quota has been reached in the federal waters of the Gulf. The four states are taking a look at this and take appropriate concurrent action in state waters. No action is recommended at this time on mackerel.

Gerald Adkins discussed Acts 381 and 382 of the 1987 Legislature. He said that the Acts state that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission shall, upon notice that the quota has been reached close the waters of Louisiana to commercial harvest of red drum and spotted seatrout.

Dr. Hines offered a resolution to close the commercial fishery of red drum effective January 15, 1988. Mr. Vinet seconded this motion and was unanimously approved.

(The full text of the resolution
is made a part of the record)

WHEREAS, Act 381 of the 1987 regular session of the Louisiana legislature established an annual quota for the commercial harvest of red drum in Louisiana waters at 1.7 million pounds, and

WHEREAS, at the September 3, 1987 Commission meeting the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission declared the quota year for red drum to begin on September 1, 1987 and end on August 31, 1988 and on an annual basis thereafter, and

WHEREAS, the National Marine Fisheries Service has reported there have been 1,239,982 pounds of red drum taken in Louisiana waters from September 1, 1987 through November 30, 1987, and

WHEREAS, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries biologists, based on historical landings and November, 1987 landings project there were 487,528 pounds of red drum taken during December, 1987 bringing the total commercial harvest of red drum in Louisiana waters from September 1, through December 31, 1987 to 1,727,510, and

WHEREAS, Act 381 mandates a closure of the commercial fishery upon the quota having been reached, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this Commission hereby declares the red drum commercial fishery closed until midnight, August 31, 1988, effective at midnight, January 15, 1988.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the commercial harvest, purchase, barter, trade and sale of red drum taken from Louisiana waters after the effective date of this closure is prohibited.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all commercial dealers possessing red drum taken legally prior to the date of closure shall maintain appropriate records in accordance with LSA R.S. 56:306.4. Said closure shall remain in effect until midnight, August 31, 1988.

Dr. Hines moved that we suspend the rules of order to allow a special resolution concerning recreational fishing of red drum be brought before the floor at this time. This motion was seconded by Mr. Vinet. The vote was 5-2 in favor of the motion.

(The full text of the resolution is made a part of the record)

WHEREAS, R. S. 56:22 provides that the Louisiana and Fisheries Commission, when it deems it in the best interest of the state, to entirely prohibit the taking of any species of fish, and

WHEREAS, R.S. 56:317 authorizes the Secretary to declare a closed season on any species of fish in the waters of the state when there is evidence that said fish have been depleted through overfishing or that fishing it detrimental to the interests of the state, and

WHEREAS, technical information developed by both state and federal fishery scientists indicates juvenile escapement of red drum to the spawning population is below the level necessary to sustain the brood stock, and

WHEREAS, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce on December 31, 1987 issued an emergency rule effective January 1, 1988 closing the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the Gulf of Mexico to the harvest of red drum to protect the existing brood stock, and

WHEREAS, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce has requested the Gulf States to close the waters under their jurisdiction to increase escapement necessary to maintain the brood stock, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Commission does hereby prohibit the recreational harvest of red drum from midnight, January 15, 1988 until midnight, June 1, 1988, and further, the Commission does hereby direct the Secretary to declare and effectuate a closed season for the recreational harvest of red drum concurrent with the above dates. During this closed season no red drum may be harvested or possessed in Louisiana waters. There shall be zero retention of red drum caught as incidental by-catch by either recreational or commercial fishermen. Red drum caught in Louisiana waters must be released immediately with a minimum of harm and fishing operations must be conducted in a way that maximizes conservation of red drum.

Mr. Vinet seconded Dr. Hines' motion and motion carried with a 4-2 vote.

Before this vote was taken Mr. Jenkins offered a substitute motion which was seconded by Mr. Pol and determined to be an illegal motion by the Department's attorney, Mr. Don Puckett.

Mr. Jenkins asked for an opinion from the Attorney General's office on the action that was taken in light of the fact the quorum of this committee had a meeting this morning in the Secretary's office to discuss these matters which were not on the agenda. He stated that in light of that, that the action of the Commission was illegal and null and void. He stated that he did not want to be sued under any of the Sunshine laws or acts.

The Spring Shrimp meeting will be held on April 28th and Mr. Vinet moved to have this meeting in New Orleans, seconded by Dr. Hines and passed unanimously.

Mr. Palmisano made the announcement of the deer tagging public hearing to be held on Monday January 28th in the DNR Building at 6:30 PM. Dr. Hines moved to hold the hearing at the time announced, seconded by Mr. Vinet, which was passed unanimously.

Mr. Palmisano asked that the rules be suspended to elect a Vice-Chairman since Mr. Jenkins was appointed to replace Mrs. Roberts who held the position of Vice-Chairman. Mr. Vinet moved to suspend the rules, seconded by Dr. Hines and motion carried.

Mr. Vinet made a motion to elect Dr. Hines as Vice-Chairman. Mr. Palmisano asked for a unanimous second. Dr. Hines is the new Vice-Chairman

Dr. Hines moved to suspend the rules to change the location of the public hearing on February 17th which was seconded by Mr. Vinet and passed unanimously.

Dr. Hines made a motion because of economics to change the location of the public hearing on Wednesday, February 17th, to the Ruston Civic Center. The motion was seconded by Mr. Vinet and motion carried.

The Enforcement Report for the month of December 1987 was given at the meeting on Wednesday by Ray Montet.

The Survey Report for the period of November 30-December 31, 1987. During this period field activity consisted of 102 surveys scheduled, 81 surveys were unable to be done due to bad weather or fishermen unable to meet surveyor. Lease rental collected was \$267,072.96, survey fees collected were \$45,069.10, 319 applications were filed and 7 new leases were issued. Six surveys were done by a private surveyor making a total for 1987 of 36. This was also presented at Wednesday's meeting.

On Thursday Mr. Herring announced the death of Herman Taylor. He requested a resolution to be included in the minutes.

(The full text of the resolution
is made a part of the record)

WHEREAS, Conservationists and sportsmen throughout the North American continent have been shocked and saddened by the death of Herman Taylor, Jr., of Natchitoches, and

WHEREAS, The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission recognizes that Herman Taylor's lifetime of devoted service to the cause of wildlife is unsurpassed on the local as well as the international level, and

WHEREAS, Nature-loving citizens of the United States, Canada and Mexico esteem him especially for his tireless efforts in behalf of migratory waterfowl through the Ducks Unlimited organization, of which he was president in 1973 and again in 1974, and

WHEREAS, State and federal lawmakers, staff members of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and all his friends in the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries will sorely miss but forever remember his benefactions, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does this day adopt this resolution of gratitude and remembrance to Herman Taylor, Jr., and extend its heartfelt condolences to his family, his associates and his admirers everywhere.

Dr. Cappel moved to accept this resolution, seconded by Mr. Pol and was unanimously approved.

Joe Herring also recognized Mr. Vinet as past Chairman on behalf of the staff and thanked him for all his help while he was Chairman of the Commission.

Mr. Angelle asked that all of us stand up for a moment of silence for Mr. Herman Taylor.

The meeting was adjourned.

RESOLUTION

Commercial

The following resolution was adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its regular meeting held in Baton Rouge on January 7, 1988

WHEREAS Act 381 of the 1987 regular session of the Louisiana legislature established an annual quota for the commercial harvest of red drum in Louisiana waters at 1.7 million pounds, and

WHEREAS at the September 3, 1987 Commission meeting the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission declared the quota year for red drum to begin on September 1, 1987 and end on August 31, 1988 and on an annual basis thereafter, and

WHEREAS the National Marine Fisheries Service has reported there have been 1,239,982 pounds of red drum taken in Louisiana waters from September 1, 1987 through November 30, 1987, and

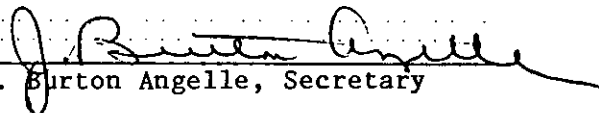
WHEREAS Department of Wildlife and Fisheries biologists, based on historical landings and November, 1987 landings project there were 487,528 pounds of red drum taken during December, 1987 bringing the total commercial harvest of red drum in Louisiana waters from September 1, through December 31, 1987 to 1,727,510, and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all commercial dealers possessing red drum taken legally prior to the date of closure shall maintain appropriate records in accordance with LSA R. S. 56:306.4. Said closure shall remain in effect until midnight, August 31, 1988.


J. Burton Angelle, Secretary

RESOLUTION
Recreational

The following resolution was adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its regular meeting held in Baton Rouge on January 7, 1988

WHEREAS R. S. 56:22 provides that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, when it deems it in the best interest of the state, to entirely prohibit the taking of any species of fish, and

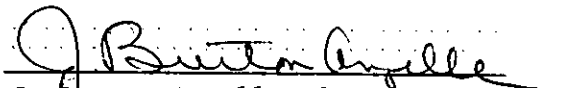
WHEREAS R. S. 56:317 authorizes the Secretary to declare a closed season on any species of fish in the waters of the state when there is evidence that said fish have been depleted through overfishing or that fishing is detrimental to the interests of the state, and

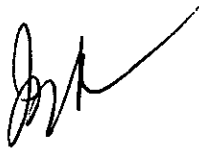
WHEREAS technical information developed by both state and Federal fishery scientists indicates juvenile escapement of red drum to the spawning population is below the level necessary to sustain the brood stock, and

WHEREAS the Secretary of the U. S. Department of Commerce on December 31, 1987 issued an emergency rule effective January 1, 1988 closing the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the Gulf of Mexico to the harvest of red drum to protect the existing brood stock, and

WHEREAS the Secretary of the U. S. Department of Commerce has requested the Gulf states to close the waters under their jurisdiction to increase escapement necessary to maintain the brood stock, now

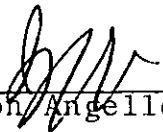
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Commission does hereby prohibit the recreational harvest of red drum from midnight, January 15, 1988 until midnight, June 1, 1988, and further, the Commission does hereby direct the Secretary to declare and effectuate a closed season for the recreational harvest of red drum concurrent with the above dates. During this closed season no red drum may be harvested or possessed in Louisiana waters. There shall be zero retention of red drum caught as incidental by-catch by either recreational or commercial fishermen. Red drum caught in Louisiana waters must be released immediately with a minimum of harm and fishing operations must be conducted in a way that maximizes conservation of red drum.


J. Burton Angelle, Secretary



LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

Approved: 1/14/88



J. Burton Angelle

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

January 14, 1988

JOE PALMISANO, JR.
Chairman

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

AGENDA

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

January 14, 1988

1. Roll Call
2. Consider Rescinding Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission Action Taken on Thursday, January 7, 1988
Relative to Closure of Recreational Redfish Fishing
on Procedural Grounds

MINUTES OF MEETING OF
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

January 14, 1988

Chairman Joe Palmisano presiding:

Jack Cappel
Don Hines
James Jenkins
Warren Pol
Dale Vinet

Mr. J. Burton Angelle was also present.

Mr. Palmisano stated that this special meeting has been called relative to the recent closure of the recreational redfish harvest which was passed by this Commission on January 7th.

Procedural questions have been raised relative to the passage of that resolution including public notice under the Administrative Procedures Act.

Therefore Dr. Hines has called this special meeting in an effort to resolve those questions upon advice of counsel. I would entertain a motion to reconsider the vote taken on the recreational redfish harvest, based upon the procedural questions raised. If such a motion carries it is my intention to call a special meeting for the consideration of a recreational redfish harvest ban in the morning immediately preceding our regular February Commission meeting which is set in Houma for February 4th at a time and location to be announced.

This will be a full hearing on the merits relative to such a ban and will provide a forum for all interested persons to express their views thereon.

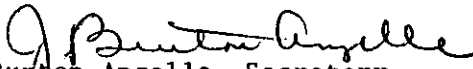
Dr. Hines stated that in view of the possibility of a procedural error January 7, 1988 the meeting of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission I move that we rescind the resolution adopted that date concerning the closure of the recreational redfishing that was to take place at midnight January 15, 1988. This motion was seconded by Mr. Vinet and unanimously approved.

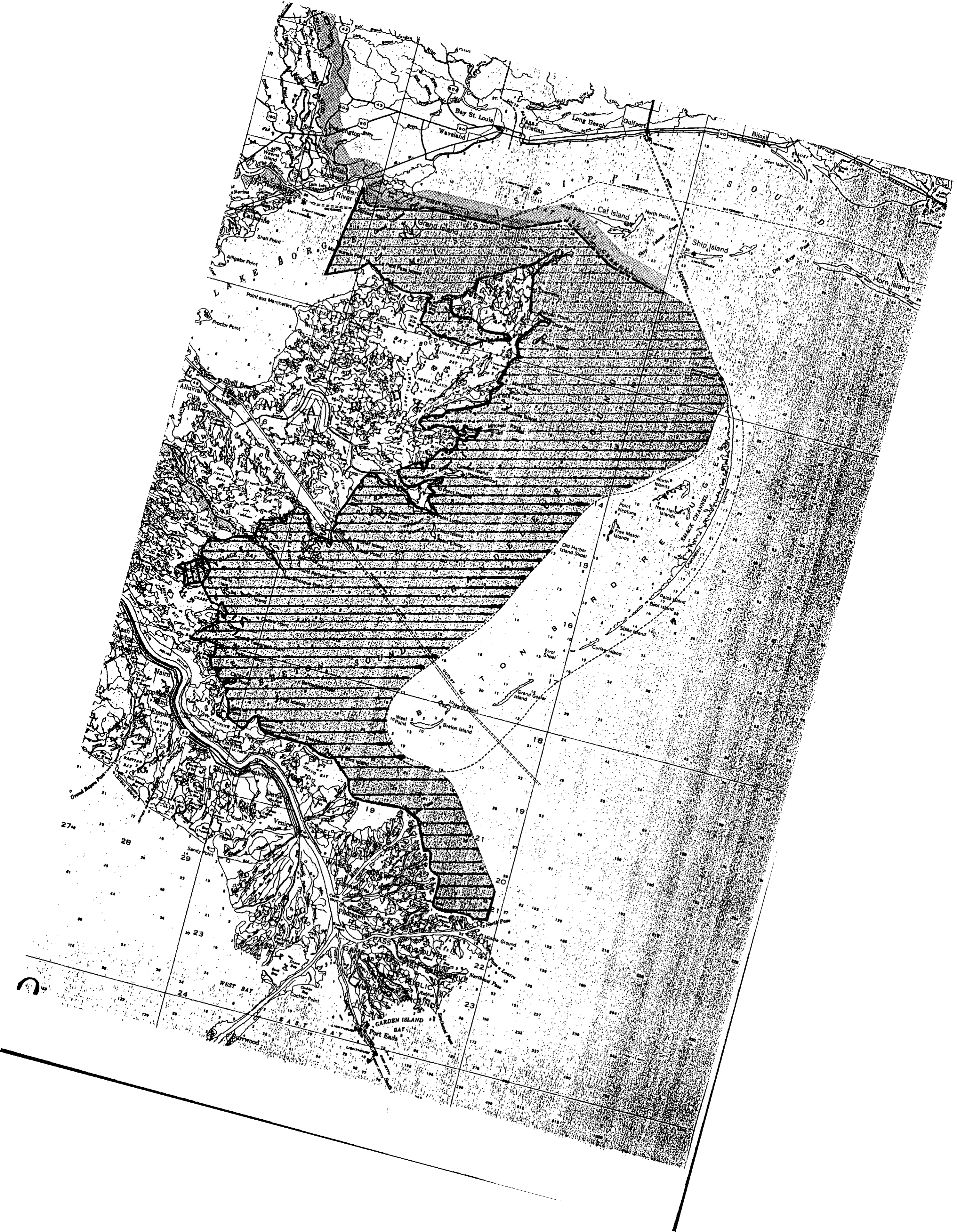
The meeting was adjourned with a motion from Dr. Cappel which was seconded by Dr. Hines.

RESOLUTION

The following resolution was adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its regular meeting held in Baton Rouge on January 7, 1988

- WHEREAS R. S. 56:434A authorizes the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to set aside areas for use as oyster seed grounds, and
- WHEREAS as an area east of the Mississippi River has been used as an oyster seed ground for approximately 40 years, and
- WHEREAS a recent review of Commission regulation has shown a comprehensive description of the public oyster seed area east of the Mississippi River was not properly promulgated as set forth in the Administrative Procedures Act, now
- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the enclosed maps shall be designated as a description of the oyster seed grounds east of the Mississippi River until such time as funds become available to commission a comprehensive, up-to-date survey and description of the oyster seed grounds.


J. Burton Angelle, Secretary



Louisiana Recreational Catch

(Numbers of Fish)

	<u>King Mackerel</u>	<u>Spanish Mackerel</u>
1979	42,000	171,000
1980	358,000	411,000
1981	132,000	6,000
1982	164,000	70,000
1983	35,000	81,000
1984	*	7,000
1985	*	157,000
1986	*	10,000

* Less than 30,000 pounds

Louisiana Commercial Landings

(Pounds)

	<u>King Mackerel</u>	<u>Spanish Mackerel</u>
1978	0	18,714
1979	0	33,132
1980	0	55,136
1981	0	68,134
1982	229,186	15,027
1983	1,489,539	74,140
1984	747,543	17,492
1985	969,665	31,625
1986	334,405	21,761

DECEMBER 1987 CASE REPORT

REGION 1

TOTAL CASES-214

Enforcement-209
Other Divisions-5

- 1-Boating
- 16-Hunting without resident license
- 6-Hunting without a non-resident license
- 3-Unlawful taking of wild birds
- 19-Hunting from moving vehicle and/or aircraft
- 11-Hunting with unplugged gun or silencer
- 10-Hunting wild quadrupeds and/or wild birds illegal hours
- 1-Angling without a license
- 16-Hunting without resident big game license
- 6-Hunting without non-resident big game license
- 5-Hunting deer in closed area
- 3-Hunt or take deer or bear illegal hours
- 64-Hunt or discharge firearm from public road
- 4-Hunt or take illegal deer o/s
- 10-Failure to wear hunter's orange
- 2-Possession of o/l of deer or bear
- 2-Possession of untagged deer or bear
- 4-Hunt raccoons or opossums illegally
- 1-Hunting migratory game birds with unplugged gun
- 1-Resisting arrest
- 5-Criminal trespass on state property
- 2-Illegal spotlighting from public road
- 8-Other

PAGE 2

REGION 1 CONT'D.

14-Not abiding by rules and regulations on WMA

CONFISCATIONS

7-deer, 13-guns, 5-spotlights, 1-rabbit, 2-coons, 1-opossum, 2-vehicles.

REGION 2

TOTAL CASES-80

Enforcement-80
Other Divisions-0

0-Boating

3-Hunting without resident license

10-Hunting without non-resident license

4-Hunting from moving vehicle and/or aircraft

2-Hunting with unplugged gun or silencer

6-Hunt wild quadrupeds and/or wild birds illegal hours

1-Hunt squirrel closed season

3-Other than Wildlife and Fisheries (simple escape)

7-Hunt w/o non-resident big game license

21-Hunt or take deer from public road

1-Hunt or take illegal deer o/s

1-Possession of untagged deer or bear

4-Fail to wear hunters orange

1-Hunt raccoons or opossums illegally

2-Hunting migratory game birds illegal hours

1-Wanton waste of migratory birds

1-Possess over limit of ducks (field possession)

4-Not abiding by rules and regulations on WMA

2-DWI

PAGE 3
REGION 2 CONT'D.

1-Illegal spotlighting from public road

CONFISCATIONS

1-shotgun, 2-spotlight, 3 rifles, 1 IDM tag, 15 rounds 22 caliber ammunition, 1 battery, 1 deer, 4 mallard drakes

REGION 3

TOTAL CASES-199

Enforcement-194
Other Divisions-5

5-Boating

1-Angling without a license (resident or non-res.)

1-Failure to have commercial license in possession

9-Hunting without resident license

2-Hunting without non-resident license

13-Hunting from moving vehicle and/or aircraft

4-Hunting with unplugged gun or silencer

21-Hunt wild quadrupeds and/or wild birds illegal hours

26-Hunt or discharge firearm from public road

11-Hunt without resident big game license

3-Hunt without non-resident big game license

4-Hunt or take deer or bear closed season

4-Hunt deer closed area (dept. reg.)

4-Running deer dogs during still hunt season

34-Hunt or take deer from public road

8-Hunt or take illegal deer o/s

1-Field possession of deer meat without tag

PAGE 4

CONT'D. REGION 3 CONT'D.

6-Fail to wear hunters orange

1-Hunt raccoons or opossums illegally

1-Hunting ducks or geese without federal stamp

4-Hunting migratory game birds with unplugged gun

2-Hunting ducks closed season

32-Not abiding by rules and regulations on WMA

1-Resisting arrest

1-Other than Wildlife and Fisheries

CONFISCATIONS

7 deer, 3 rifles.

REGION 4

TOTAL CASES-90

Enforcement-77

Other Divisions-13

5-Boating

22-Hunting without resident license

2-Hunting without non-resident license

3-Hunting from moving vehicle and/or aircraft

2-Hunting with unplugged gun or silencer

10-Hunt wild quadrupeds and/or wild birds illegal hours

4-Hunt or discharge firearm from public road

7-Hunt w/o resident big game license

1-Hunt or take deer or bear closed season

1-Hunt or take deer or bear illegal hours

3-Hunt or take illegal deer o/s

6-Failure to wear hunters orange

3-Hunting raccoons or opossums illegally

REGION 4 CONT'D.

- 1-Possessing F.B.A. without license
- 1-Hunting ducks or geese without federal stamp
- 1-Hunting with unsigned duck stamp
- 1-Hunting migratory game birds with unplugged gun
- 2-Possess untagged migratory game birds
- 10-Not abiding by rules and regulations on WMA
- 1-Criminal trespass

CONFISCATIONS

2 deer, 7 guns, 5 ducks, 2 rabbits, 5 headlights,

REGION 5

TOTAL CASES-235

Enforcement-222
Other Divisions-13

37-Boating

- 6-Take or sell commercial fish or bait species without commercial license
- 4-Take or possess commercial fish without a vessel license
- 15-Hunting w/o resident license
- 2-Hunting w/o non-resident license
- 15-Hunting from moving vehicle and/or aircraft
- 2-Hunting w/unplugged gun or silencer
- 44-Hunt wild quadrupeds and/or wild birds
- 2-Possess firearm while frogging
- 16-Hunt or discharge firearm from public road
- 11-Hunting at night with light and gun
- 17-Hunting ducks illegal hours
- 6-Hunting from moving vehicle
- 20-Take rabbits illegal methods

- 4-Hunt or take deer or bear closed season
- 9-Hunt or take deer or bear illegal hours
- 2-Hunt or take deer illegally from a boat
- 2-Fail to maintain sex identification
- 7-Hunt raccoons or opossums illegally
- 2-Taking or possessing alligators closed season
- 1-Trap or sell F.B.A. or parts without license (resident-or non-resident)
- 5-Hunting migratory game birds over baited area
- 10-Hunting ducks or geese without federal stamp
- 5-Hunting migratory game birds with unplugged gun
- 4-Hunting migratory game birds illegal hours
- 3-Hunting migratory game birds over baited area
- 2-Field possession of freshly killed migratory game birds closed season
- 1-Wanton waste of migratory birds
- 6-Using lead shot in area designated as steel shot only
- 1-Hunting geese closed season
- 2-Possess over limit of ducks (field possession)
- 1-Hunting rails closed season
- 1-Hunting woodcocks in closed season
- 2-Taking ibis-no season
- 13-Not abiding by rules and regulations on WMA
 - 1-Interfering with an officer
 - 2-Other than Wildlife and Fisheries

CONFISCATIONS

67 sacks oysters, 29 coons, 29 geese, 2 woodcock, 6 rabbits, 82 ducks, 1 alligator, 6 squirrels, 1 deer and 1 Ibis, 7 rifles, 7 shotguns, 4 headlights, 1 pistol.

TOTAL CASES-372

Enforcement-297
Other Division-75

45-Boating

12-Angling without a license (resident or non-resident)

1-Fishing without resident pole license

2-Use gear without recreational gear license (resident or non-resident)

2-Fail to have commercial license in possession

1-Take commercial fish without commercial gear license

2-Take or possess commercial fish without a vessel license

1-Theft of pond raised fish

13-Unlawfully take oysters from areas designated for private leasing

7-Taking oysters from unapproved area (polluted)

1-Take oysters closed season

36-Hunting without resident license

30-Hunting from moving vehicle and/or aircraft

4-Hunting with unplugged gun or silencer

28-Hunt wild quadrupeds and/or wild birds illegal hours

20-Hunt or discharge firearm from public road

5-Hunt or discharge firearm from levee road

11-Hunt w/o resident big game license

9-Hunt deer closed area (dept. regulations)

3-Hunt or take deer or bear illegal hours

3-Hunt or take deer from public road

2-Hunt or take illegal deer o/s

1-Possession of illegally taken deer or bear (o/s or c/s)

1-Field possession of deer meat without tag

1-Fail to maintain sex identification

PAGE 8

REGION 6 CONT'D.

43-Hunt raccoons or opossums illegally

3-Take over limit of raccoons or opossums

2-Possessing F.B.A. without license

1-Trap or sell F.B.A. or parts without license (resident or non-res.)

3-Trapping closed season

7-Hunting ducks or geese without federal stamp

1-Hunting migratory game birds with unplugged gun

6-Hunting migratory game birds illegal hours

2-Hunting migratory game birds over baited area

1-Hunting migratory game birds from a vehicle

1-Hunting migratory game birds from a moving motorboat

1-Possess untagged migratory game birds

3-Field possession of freshly killed migratory game birds c/s

1-Possess over limit of doves (field possession)

2-Hunting ducks closed season

9-Possess over limit of ducks (field possession)

2-Hunting woodcocks closed season

36-Not abiding by rules and regulations on W.M.A.

2-Illegal spotlighting from public road

CONFISCATIONS

20 doves, 78 ducks, 4 woodcocks, 1 scaup, 17 raccoons, 6 minks, 4 deer, 1 nutria, 4 rabbits, 1 opossum, 10 rifles, 9 shotguns, 5 assorted lights, 1 battery, and 1 trap

REGION 7

TOTAL CASES-186

Enforcement-184

Other Divisions-2

25-Boating

18-Hunting without resident license

1-Hunting wild quadrupeds and/or wild birds illegal hours

PAGE 9

REGION 7 CONT'D.

- 15-Hunting from moving vehicle and/or aircraft
- 12-Hunting with unplugged gun or silencer
- 9-Hunt at night with light and gun
- 20-Hunt or discharge firearms from public road
- 4-Hunt without resident big game license
- 2-Hunt deer closed area
- 1-Hunt or take deer or bear closed season
- 7-Hunt or take deer or bear illegal hours
- 17-Hunt or take deer from public road
- 3-Hunt or take deer illegally from a boat
- 5-Hunt or take illegal deer o/s
- 1-Possession of illegally taken deer or bear (o/s or c/s)
- 9-Fail to wear hunters orange
- 6-Hunt raccoons or opossums illegally
- 1-Hunt ducks or geese without federal stamp
- 8-Hunt migratory game birds illegal hours
- 4-Possess overlimit of ducks (field possession)
- 2-Not abiding by rules and regulations on WMA
- 9-Criminal trespass
- 2-Illegal spotlighting from public road
- 7-Other than Wildlife and Fisheries

CONFISCATIONS

23 shotguns, 1 pistol, 5 rifles, 10 headlights, 17 ducks, 10 deer, 1 rabbit.

REGION 8

TOTAL CASES-484

ENFORCEMENT-409
OTHER DIVISIONS-43

32-Boating

18-Angling without a license (resident or non-resident)

1-Use gear without recreational gear license (resident or non-res.)

10-Angle without saltwater license (resident or non-res.)

1-Fail to have fish intact (Saltwater)

23-Fail to have commercial license in possession

3-Take or sell commercial fish or bait species without commercial license

21-Take commercial fish without commercial gear license

26-Take or possess commercial fish without vessel license

1-Possession of over limit of deer

1-Netting in closed area (dept. reg.)

1-Use illegal nets

8-Leave nets unattended

5-Take or possess undersize commercial fish

2-Blocking passage of fish

4-Hunt deer illegally

16-Failure to have written permission

68-Taking oysters from unapproved area (polluted)

38-Unlawfully take oysters off a private lease

3-Using illegal gear for taking oysters on public grounds (natural reef)

7-Take oysters illegal hours

2-Failure to tag sacked or containerized oysters

2-Using illegal gill nets

- 2-Possession of untagged oysters
- 1-Failure to obtain permit at Grand Pass
- 3-Use illegal gear for oysters
- 9-Hunting without resident license
- 2-Possess wild birds or wild quadrupeds w/o a license
- 1-Hunting wild quadrupeds and/or wild birds illegal hours
- 12-Hunting from moving vehicle and/or aircraft
- 2-Hunting with unplugged gun or silencer
- 2-Illegal possession of wild quadrupeds, wild birds, or parts thereof
- 20-Hunt at night with light and gun
- 1-Hunt or discharge firearm from public road
- 2-Hunt or take deer or bear illegal hours
- 1-Fail to maintain sex identification
- 4-Hunt raccoons or opossums illegally
- 1-Possessing F.B.A. without license
- 2-Trap or sell F.B.A. or parts without license
- 2-Take non-game quadrupeds illegally
- 2-Operate unregistered motorboat
- 1-Improper boat numbers
- 6-Improper or no light for unpowered watercraft
- 14-Failure to comply with P.F.D. requirements
- 1-Careless operation
- 5-Hunting ducks or geese without federal stamp
- 3-Hunting with unsigned duck stamp
- 3-Hunting migratory game birds with unplugged gun
- 5-Hunting migratory game birds illegal hours

PAGE 12
REGION 8 CONT'D.

- 2-Hunting migratory game birds over baited area
- 3-Hunting migratory game birds from moving motorboat
- 2-Possess untagged migratory game birds
- 2-Rallying migratory game birds
- 27-Possession over the two-day limit of migratory game birds
- 1-Take tern no season
- 19-Using lead shot in area designated as steel shot only
- 2-Hunting doves closed season
- 2-Taking Grobec no season
- 3-Resisting arrest
- 1-Criminal trespass
- 1-Public Intimidation
- 3-Other than Wildlife and Fisheries(reckless operation motor vehicle, driving on expired license, and aiding and abetting a juvenile)

CONFISCATIONS: 5 lights, 29 shotguns, 12 rifles, 3 pistols, 1 fishing pole, 21 rabbits, 17 raccoons, 24 nutria, 70 crabs, 132 redfish, 50 speckled trout, 3 grobec, 19 ringneck, 269 coot, 190 duck, 6 dove, 6 woodcock, 1 pintail, 1 seagull, 58 gill nets, 10 dredges, 3 boats, 1 duck stamp, 6 boxes lead shot, 2 deer, 1 hooded merganser, 65 sacks of oysters, 3 cormorants, 1 tern, 1 shuffler, 18 greys, 5 widgeons, 2 mottled ducks, 29 teal

PAGE 13

TOTAL CASES ALL REGION: 1860

TOTAL CASES ENFORCEMENT: 1672

TOTAL CASES OTHER DIVISIONS: 156

PAGE -14-

S.W.E.P.

RIP TIDE

ENGINE HOURS: 75

BOATS CHECKED: 20 boats checked from
Mississippi and 16 from LA.

NO CITATIONS

DELTA TIDE

ENGINE HOURS: 40

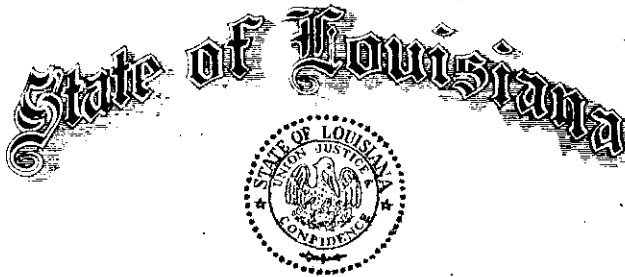
BOATS CHECKED: 32 Boats checked from LA and 2
from Mississippi.

2-Take or sell commercial fish or bait species without commercial
license

1-Take or possess commercial fish without a vessel license

1-Take commercial fish without commercial gear license

2-Take or possess undersize commercial fish (red drum over 30")



J. BURTON ANGELLE, SR.
SECRETARY

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
DISTRICT VIII
400 ROYAL ST.
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70130

EDWIN W. EDWARDS
GOVERNOR

January 4, 1988

COASTAL & MARINE RESOURCES
SURVEY SECTION
03 - 04
ACTIVITY REPORT

From November 30th thru December 31st

During this period field activity consisted of:

102 Surveys that were scheduled.
81 Surveys that were unable to be done due to bad weather
or fishermen unable to meet surveyor.

Surveys that were completed consisted of:

9 Leases that were tied into the monument control system.
3 Applications for new area.
8 15-year limitations.
1 Restake applications.

Total field activity:

<u>1985</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>	
<u>1440</u>	<u>1582</u>	<u>1285</u>	- Surveys scheduled.
<u>751</u>	<u>1138</u>	<u>669</u>	- Surveys performed.
<u>651</u>	<u>415</u>	<u>613</u>	- Surveys unable to be done due to bad weather or fishermen unable to meet surveyor.
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	- Survey where fishermen refused to survey.
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	- Disputes settled.
<u>37</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>3</u>	- No shows.
<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	- Applications cancelled by request.

Office activity during this period:


\$267,072.96 - Lease rental collected.
\$ 45,069.10 - Survey fees collected.
319 - Applications filed.
7 - New leases issued.
6 - Surveys - Private Surveyor
36 - Surveys - Private Surveyor, 1987.



Bob Sheldon
Jan. 13, 1988

Approved by


J. Burton Angelle Sr.


Joe L. Herring

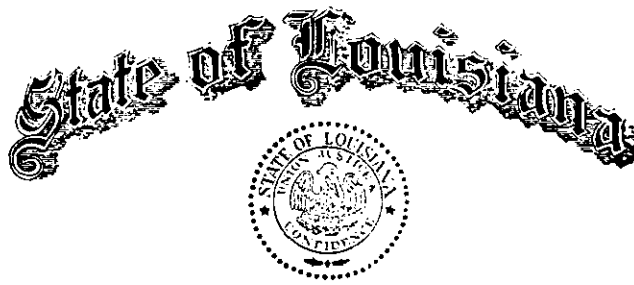
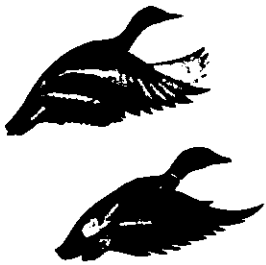
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January 7, 1988

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Dr. Jack T. Cappel Jr.	Dale J. Vinet
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J. Burton Angelle Sr., Department Secretary



J. BURTON ANGELLE, SR.
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(504) 925-3617

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
POST OFFICE BOX 15570
BATON ROUGE, LA. 70895

EDWIN W. EDWARDS
GOVERNOR

December 15, 1987

M E M O R A N D U M

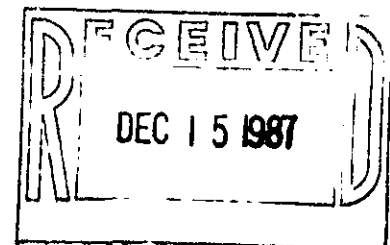
TO: Assistant Secretaries and Division Chiefs
FROM: Paula Callais
SUBJECT: Commission Meeting Agenda - January 6-7, 1987
Baton Rouge

Please write on the bottom of this memo and return to me any agenda items your division may have for the meeting in January to be held at the Quail Drive office in Baton Rouge.

Thank you!

pc

Edw. Edwards



TAB H NO. 4

Center for Wetland Resources
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803-7503


November 12, 1987

Mr. Frank Barhanovich
Acting Chairman
Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
Lincoln Center, Suite 881
5401 West Kennedy Boulevard
Tampa, FL 33609

Dear Mr. Barhanovich:

Enclosed is the report of the Red Drum Scientific Assessment Group for the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. This report represents the consensus of the Group's deliberations on the status of the red drum resource and on the allowable catch that may be taken. Feel free to call on us if there are further questions.

Regards,


Dr. Richard Condrey
Louisiana State University and
Chairman, Red Drum Scientific
Assessment Group

Enclosure

cc: Group Members
Non-Member Participants

Copy: Standing SSC
Red Drum AP
Tech Staff

11 20 23
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Report of the Red Drum Stock Assessment
Group Meeting

Prepared by
Red Drum Scientific Assessment Group
Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
November 9-10, 1987
Miami, Florida

Fishing Mortality Rates

Total disappearance rates of juvenile red drum from state waters was estimated at over 85% per year from length frequency information which reflects the effect of the state fisheries from 1983-1986. The method used in the analysis is known to be biased in such a way that the true disappearance rates are likely to be greater than those estimated, although the degree to which this may be true is unknown. These estimated disappearance rates include losses due to fishing, natural causes, and emigration, but most can be attributed to fishing. Data from Texas suggest that fishing mortality rates there have been slowly declining in that state since 1984, but are still extremely high.

Total mortality in the adult stock prior to the increase in the purse seine fishery was estimated to be about 18% per year. Most of this mortality can be attributed to natural causes, but recreational and commercial catch also contribute to mortality of the adults.

The fishing mortality rates on juveniles are far in excess of those which would maximize yield per recruit for the lengths at recruitment that existed for any state in 1986. Thus, these fish are currently subjected to growth over-fishing.

Escapement

The 1986 exploitation rates were greatly in excess of the levels which would allow the realization of the management goal of 20% escapement in each state. If fishing mortality accounts for only half of the estimated disappearance rates, the escapement of juveniles from the inshore fishery would be on the order of 2% or less. Given the known bias in the method of analysis, and the magnitude of the estimates themselves, it is likely that the escapement levels are currently much less than 2%.

If the limited take of adult red drum is to be maintained, the 20% spawning stock and 20% escapement goals are incompatible. Achievement of the escapement goal will assure that the spawning stock goal will not be met unless additional measures are taken. These additional measures must increase escapement above 20% since it is impossible to completely eliminate all fishing mortality on adult red drum which have "escaped" the inshore fishery.

Spawning Stock Biomass Per Recruit (SSB/R)

It is clear that the high juvenile fishing mortality rates are sufficient to drive the adult stock below the 20% spawning stock goal of the Plan. Whether or not the spawning stock is below this level is currently unknown. However, continued fishing on the juveniles at the 1986 rates will eventually reduce the SSB/R to very low levels.

At the present fishing mortality rates, the reproductive potential of the stock is (or will be) greatly reduced. If the fishery harvests only juveniles, then the reproductive portion of the population will be reduced by the escapement proportion, but reproduction continues to be distributed over a large number of age classes (as in the unfished state). The addition of moderate

Analytical Approach for Measurement of Spawning Stock Goal

The stock assessment group recommends that the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council adopt the concept of spawning stock biomass per recruit as the practical approach to accomplishing the stated intent of Objective #1 of the red drum management plan. The parameter measurements required to use this procedure are available and can be evaluated to make management decisions concerning spawning stock biomass.

Escapement Goals

We further recommend that the Council maintain the 20% management goal for the spawning stock ratio, and that the escapement goal be raised from 20% to 30%. This would allow for a 3-5% annual mortality of adult red drum by recreational and commercial fishermen, by accounting for the existing limited state harvest of adults and a limited incidental catch from other fisheries, permitting states to continue a limited harvest of adults and allowing for a limited incidental bycatch. Although sufficient data are unavailable to produce a definitive estimate of fishing mortality on adults, it is the best judgement of the assessment group that the mortality rate on adults is in the range of 3 to 5% even with no allowable harvest in the EEZ.

In order to achieve a 30% escapement rate to the spawning stock, the states should consider appropriate action for waters under their jurisdiction. There are two general ways in which the states can increase escapement of juvenile fish to the adult stock. The first involves reducing the rate of fishing mortality (Figure 1) by:

- gear restrictions
- closed seasons
- closed areas
- quotas
- bag and possession limits

The second involves reducing the length of time the fish are exposed to the fishery through a combination of minimum and maximum sizes. Figures 2 and 3 provide information for determining such measures.

Data Needs for Stock Assessment

- (1) The Group feels that it is essential that data continue to be collected on the age structure of the adult stock.
- (2) It is recommended that the current structure for collecting fishery statistics be modified to distinguish catch and/or effort as occurring in estuaries, territorial seas, or EEZ.
- (3) It is recommended that the current state/federal cooperative program on red drum be continued.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Red Drum Scientific Assessment Group

Richard Condrey, Louisiana State University (Chairman)
C. Phillip Goodyear, Southeast Fisheries Center, Miami
Albert Green, Texas Parks and Wildlife
Tom McIlwain, Gulf Coast Research Laboratory
Mike Murphy, Florida Department of Natural Resources
Joseph Shepard, Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries
James Tilmant, Everglades National Park
Frank Fisher, Rice University
Gerald Adkins, Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries

Non-Member Participants

John Green, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
Wayne Swingle, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
Joseph Powers, Southeast Fisheries Center, Miami
Walter Nelson, Southeast Fisheries Center, Miami
Tom VanDevender, Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
William Lindall, Southeast Regional Office
William Turner, Southeast Regional Office
George Darcy, Southeast Fisheries Center, Miami

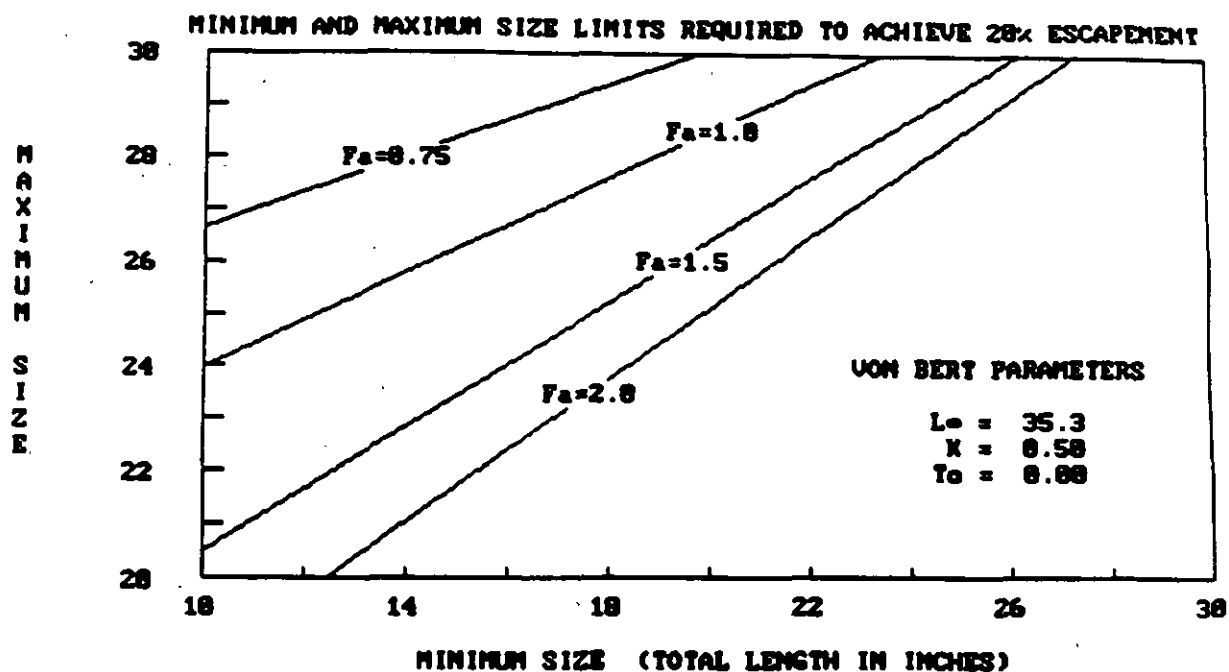


Figure 2. Maximum sizes required to achieve 20% escapement as a function of minimum sizes for several different levels of fishing mortality. The maximum size for a given minimum size and fishing mortality rate is determined by computing the mean age of the fish at the minimum size from the von Bertalanffy growth equation. The length of time (years) that the fish may be harvested is then estimated as $Y_e = F_{cum} / F_a$ where F_{cum} is 1.61 (see Figure 1 caption). The allowable harvest period is then added to the age for the minimum size to obtain the maximum harvest age. The upper size limit is then estimated from the maximum harvest age from the von Bertalanffy growth equation.

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January 7, 1988

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J. Burton Angelle Sr., Department Secretary

EXCERPT FROM MINUTES
WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION MEETING
January 7, 1988

Discussion of Redfish and Speckled Trout Quota

C. Perret Thank you, now on the redfish again, I can quickly summarize that the federal level, the federal waters off Mississippi, Louisiana and Alabama has been officially closed as of January 1, 88 to retention of one red drum per day by recreational and the 300,000 pound annual by-catch allotment to the other fisheries, shrimp, for example and the other net fisheries. The federal waters off Texas and Florida were closed sometimes during the past year, there was a zero retention for everybody there and on June or July 20th as of '86 commercial fishing in federal waters of the Gulf was completely closed. Additionally, we have received a letter from the federal agency requesting that and when I say we I'm talking about Louisiana, as well as the other Gulf states, has received a letter requesting that we take the necessary steps to insure that the escapement level be at 30 percent. Additionally, though we have not received it we will be receiving a letter from the federal agency requesting that states take appropriate action, even so far as closing the state waters to retention of red drum which would coincide with the federal agency has done. That letter has not been received yet. It's being reviewed in Washington by general council up there as I understand it. That's all I have, Mr. Chairman, unless you have any questions.

J. Palmisano

Item 4 needs no action from the Commission itself, no further questions?

C. Perret Thank you, Mr. Chairman

J. Palmisano Item No. 5 is the discussion of redfish and speckled trout quota, Gentlemen, Mr. Gerald Adkins.

G. Adkins Mr. Chairman, Members of the Commission, Secretary Angelle Members of the Audience, As most of you were briefed yesterday the 1987 Legislative Session of Louisiana resulted in several Acts being passed. Two of those directly affecting this body here today. Those two were Acts 381 and 382 commonly referred to as the quota bills. In the language of those Acts stated that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission shall, upon notice that the quota has been reached close the waters of Louisiana to commercial harvest of red drum and spotted seatrout. There were some questions and answers yesterday concerning the numbers that were gathered about that quota. I have for you this morning a letter from the United States Department of Commerce from Mr. _____, fishery reporting specialist which denotes those specific numbers that I referred to you yesterday. I also told you that the methodology used in projecting the catch and the

harvest for December indicates that the quota for red drum harvested in Louisiana waters by commercial fishermen has been met. The quota for spotted seatrout was set by Act 382 at 1 million pounds, that quota at this time has not been met. If there's any questions, I'll be glad to answer them for you.

D. Hines Mr. Chairman, I'd like to offer a resolution. (Read Resolution for Commercial)

Motion carried

Dr. Hines made a motion to suspend rules of order to allow a special resolution concerning recreational fishing of red drum be brought before the floor. There was 2/3 majority to suspend rules and take up the item.

J. Jenkins and then Mr. Palmisano ruled that Commission can suspend rules.

D. Hines (Read Resolution for Recreational)

J. Jenkins I'd like to ask Dr. Condry to come forward again if he's still here. Dr. Condry, yesterday I specifically asked if there was any scientific reason for suggesting the closure of the recreational fishery. My understanding of what you said was that it was not necessary, but I'd like to ask that question again. Is it your recommendation, the scientist's recommendation that the recreational fishery be closed?

Again,

R. Condry I would like to speak as Chairman of the Stock Assessment group, cause I think that's where my real authority comes from. And I've reviewed our document that was presented to the Gulf Council. I remind the Commission that my group unanimously was of the opinion 30 percent escapement was necessary for the long-term maintenance of the stock. But in our report, which I submitted to you yesterday, on page, unnumbered page 3 under spawning stock biomass per recruit in the first paragraph, the second sentence "Whether or not the spawning stock is below the level this 20 percent level that we think is necessary is currently unknown!" It was our group's opinion that we have definite information on gulfwide escapement rate over the last three years and that these are very low levels, those have to be corrected. But we do not know what the level spawning biomass is in the adult population that has escaped historically in state waters and when I polled my group I quickly found out that they would not have uniformly recommended a closure of the state waters gulfwide. So that is the opinion that I bring to you, not just of myself, but of the gulfwide scientists.

J. Jenkins So there's no scientific basis for voting for this resolution as it's been read to close recreational fishery.

R. Condry That is correct.

J. Palmisano Dr. Condry, I'd like a few questions. It's the consensus of your group that we need a 30 percent escapement rate of the

juvenile redbfish in state waters going to federal waters to go ahead and perpetuate the stock ?

R. Condry Yessir that is correct.

J. Palmisano Was your testimony yesterday that you indicated that we now presently have the best of your determination and the scientific community's determination we have about a 2 to 4 percent escapement rate?

R. Condry Yessir, gulfwide.

J. Palmisano So by closing this we certainly won't harm that resource.]

R. Condry That's correct.

J. Palmisano It should have somewhat of a beneficial effect on the escape-ment of the juvenile reds out into the federal waters. From 2 percent to 30 percent, ther's a pretty large gap that we or some-body has to address.

R. Condry Yessir and by closing just until June 30th you wouldn't have a major effect on the escapement rate. If our calculations are correct predominately the fisheries is operating on a one or two year old fish so your closure would have to be in effect for four or five years before you would see a real increase in spawning biomass

D. Hines It that your recommendation, Dr. Condry, that we close red-fish for four or five years?

R. Condry Nosir, I cannot, as a scientist I was very much ina of the Council's recommendation to close the inshore waters during this short term of an offshore closure. So I polled my committee and I started with the more conservative members of my committee, those that would be more likely to close the fishery and they were not of the opinion that the science was there to indicate that that drastic emergency was necessary. What we tried to do last year at the Legislature was move the fishery towards a 20 percent escape-ment rate. The commercial quota was one part of the that move and the restriction for recreational harvest were another part of that move. So, speaking now as a member of that group that met down at the Legislature and tried to reach a compromise, I, honestly in good faith could not recommend a closure of the recational fishery at this time. Thank you.

J. Cappel Dr. Condry it is your opinion that the red drum, that there is a problem with the red drum. you can see that there is a problem in maintaining the continued resource of the red drum if things continue as they have over the past five years.

R. Condry Oh definitely and that is historically over the past five years there was a pretty dramatic change in red drum management

last year at the Legislature. I think the record would show that I wanted a more dramatic change from a scientific standpoint. But I also think it's important that the user groups have, develop a sense of husbandry and feel like they're a part of the management decisions.

J. Cappel But you will concede at this time there is a problem with red drum escapement.

R. Condry Oh yes that's unequivocal.

J. Cappel Thank you

D. Vinet Wouldn't it be wise to do what we're trying to do and expect the Legislature in April to put a small creel limit on fishermen on red drum. By that time they could maybe lower the creel limit and open the red drum back to the red drum fishermen and it would be as high as fifty (50). I mean if somebody wants to fish recreational with red drum, recreational, you can put four people in the boat and come in with 200 fish. And this is what these people, most of these people, a lot of these people are gonna do so we're stopping one end and leaving the other end open, I mean there's a gap in there that's not right to some people.

R. Condry Yes, Dale I can't argue, I understand what you're saying. All these facts were available to the public and to the Legislature last year and when we discussed the quota Gerald Adkins testified that he felt that that quota would be met September 1st of last year and it technically was met on the commercial harvest and yet because of legal rulings evidently the quota was continued for another time period so the commercial quota that we talked about at the Legislature everyone that was there knew that at some point in the near future the commercial harvest would be stopped and a recreational harvest would continue. I'm treading on thin ice because I'm getting into the political arena and I'm not a politician.

J. Cappel Mr. Chairman, Just one comment please, regardless of user groups, I think we have to keep in mind that it is the foremost mandate of this Commission to protect, conserve and replenish the natural resources of this state. I think that we have heard scientific comment that does state that this particular species is having a problem. I feel that there is no further way that I can honestly approach this problem without taking the actions that we have proposed at this time.

J. Jenkins Being this item was not on the agenda and it really been no time for discussion by the people interested in it, there was no comment on it yesterday, I would like to ask if there's anybody in the audience today that would like to speak against this resolution.

Excerpt from Minutes of January 7, 1988
(cont)

Mark Hilzim
Terry LeBlanc
Henry Truelove
Sammy Baulk

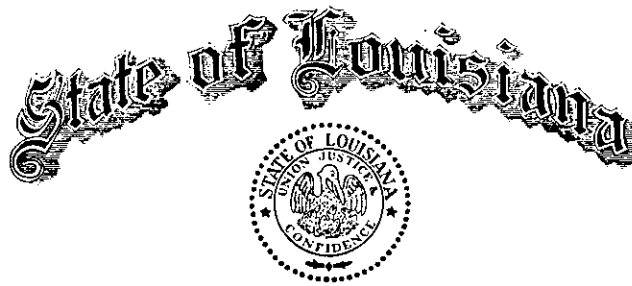
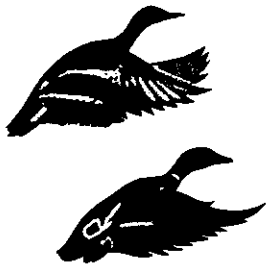
... I would like to know if the Wildlife and Fisheries or one of the scientists' groups would have any kind of a survey where they pooled some of these checks on the fishermen, creel limits or whatever and see if they had a average per day or per outing per fisherman size or number or weight that showed up?

J. Palmisano Gerald, Mr, Adkins, does the Department have any statistics on what the recreational catch on an annual basis represents in numbers and pounds if you have it?

G. Adkins Mr. Chairman, I don't have any of that information with me at the present time. It is available in several publications. I can tell you that prior to 1986 according to every survey that had been done whether it was a university, state, federal or private organization, the recreational catch was greater than that of the commercial catch for both spotted sea trout and red drum. In the year 1986 that catch was approximately equal as far as weight goes, however, one of the important things to consider is the fact that the recreational fisherman ordinarily catches smaller fish than does the commercial simply because the commercial uses a device which categorizes his catch, that's called a net. One of the other things I think that we could consider is the average size of red-fish were caught by recreational fishermen during 1984 was approximately 15.7 inches and the average size of the spotted seatrout caught by the records of that same time was 13.5 inches, if my memory serves me correctly. We used that information when we looked at the problem and made the recommendations to the Legislature that we made, we used size limits, average catch and so forth. Thank you.

J. Palmisano Does that answer your question?

Thank you very much.



J. BURTON ANGELLE, SR.
SECRETARY
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DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
POST OFFICE BOX 15570
BATON ROUGE, LA. 70895

EDWIN W. EDWARDS
GOVERNOR

December 15, 1987

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Assistant Secretaries and Division Chiefs
FROM: Paula Callais
SUBJECT: Commission Meeting Agenda - January 6-7, 1987
Baton Rouge

Please write on the bottom of this memo and return to me any agenda items your division may have for the meeting in January to be held at the Quail Drive office in Baton Rouge.

Thank you!

pc

EXCERPT FROM MINUTES
WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION MEETING
January 7, 1988

Discussion of Redfish and Speckled Trout Quota

C. Perret Thank you, now on the redfish again, I can quickly summarize that the federal level, the federal waters off Mississippi, Louisiana and Alabama has been officially closed as of January 1, 88 to retention of one red drum per day by recreational and the 300,000 pound annual by-catch allotment to the other fisheries, shrimp, for example and the other net fisheries. The federal waters off Texas and Florida were closed sometimes during the past year, there was a zero retention for everybody there and on June or July 20th as of 86 commercial fishing in federal waters of the Gulf was completely closed. Additionally, we have received a letter from the federal agency requesting that and when I say we I'm talking about Louisiana, as well as the other Gulf states, has received a letter requesting that we take the necessary steps to insure that the escapement level be at 30 percent. Additionally, though we have not received it we will be receiving a letter from the federal agency requesting that states take appropriate action, even so far as closing the state waters to retention of red drum which would coincide with the federal agency has done. That letter has not been received yet. It's being reviewed in Washington by general council up there as I understand it. That's all I have, Mr. Chairman, unless you have any questions.

J. Palmisano

Item 4 needs no action from the Commission itself, no further questions?

C. Perret Thank you, Mr. Chairman

J. Palmisano Item No. 5 is the discussion of redfish and speckled trout quota, Gentlemen, Mr. Gerald Adkins.

G. Adkins Mr. Chairman, Members of the Commission, Secretary Angelle Members of the Audience, As most of you were briefed yesterday the 1987 Legislative Session of Louisiana resulted in several Acts being passed. Two of those directly affecting this body here today. Those two were Acts 381 and 382 commonly referred to as the quota bills. In the language of those Acts stated that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission shall, upon notice that the quota has been reached close the waters of Louisiana to commercial harvest of red drum and spotted seatrout. There were some questions and answers yesterday concerning the numbers that were gathered about that quota. I have for you this morning a letter from the United States Department of Commerce from Mr. Lee USFE, fishery reporting specialist which denotes those specific numbers that I referred to you yesterday. I also told you that the methodology used in projecting the catch and the

harvest for December indicates that the quota for red drum harvested in Louisiana waters by commercial fishermen has been met. The quota for spotted seatrout was set by Act 382 at 1 million pounds, that quota at this time has not been met. If there's any questions, I'll be glad to answer them for you.

D. Hines Mr. Chairman, I'd like to offer a resolution. (Read Resolution for Commercial)

Motion carried

Dr. Hines made a motion to suspend rules of order to allow a special resolution concerning recreational fishing of red drum be brought before the floor. There was 2/3 majority to suspend rules and take up the item.

J. Jenkins and then Mr. Palmisano ruled that Commission can suspend rules.

D. Hines (Read Resolution for Recreational)

J. Jenkins I'd like to ask Dr. Condry to come forward again if he's still here. Dr. Condry, yesterday I specifically asked if there was any scientific reason for suggesting the closure of the recreational fishery. My understanding of what you said was that it was not necessary, but I'd like to ask that question again. Is it your recommendation, the scientist's recommendation that the recreational fishery be closed?

Again,

R. Condry I would like to speak as Chairman of the Stock Assessment group, cause I think that's where my real authority comes from. And I've reviewed our document that was presented to the Gulf Council. I remind the Commission that my group unanimously was of the opinion 30 percent escapement was necessary for the long-term maintenance of the stock. But in our report, which I submitted to you yesterday, on page, unnumbered page 3 under spawning stock biomass per recruit in the first paragraph, the second sentence "Whether or not the spawning stock is below the level this 20 percent level that we think is necessary is currently unknown". It was our group's opinion that we have definite information on gulfwide escapement rate over the last three years and that these are very low levels, those have to be corrected. But we do not know what the level spawning biomass is in the adult population that has escaped historically in state waters and when I polled my group I quickly found out that they would not have uniformly recommended a closure of the state waters gulfwide. So that is the opinion that I bring to you, not just of myself, but of the gulfwide scientists.

J. Jenkins So there's no scientific basis for voting for this resolution as it's been read to close recreational fishery.

R. Condry That is correct.

J. Palmisano Dr. Condry, I'd like a few questions. It's the consensus of your group that we need a 30 percent escapement rate of the

juvenile redfish in state waters going to federal waters to go ahead and perpetuate the stock ?

R. Condry Yessir that is correct.

J. Palmisano Was your testimony yesterday that you indicated that we now presently have the best of your determination and the scientific community's determination we have about a 2 to 4 percent escapement rate?

R. Condry Yessir, gulfwide.

J. Palmisano So by closing this we certainly won't harm that resource.]

R. Condry That's correct.

J. Palmisano It should have somewhat of a beneficial effect on the escape-ment of the juvenile reds out into the federal waters. From 2 percent to 30 percent, ther's a pretty large gap that we or some-body has to address.

R. Condry Yessir and by closing just until June 30th you wouldn't have a major effect on the escapement rate. If our calculations are correct predominately the fisheries is operating on a one or two year old fish so your closure would have to be in effect for four or five years before you would see a real increase in spawning biomass

D. HInes It that your recommendation, Dr. Condry, that we close red-fish for four or five years?

R. Condry Nosir, I cannot, as a scientist I was very much inina of the Council's recommendation to close the inshore waters during this short term of an offshore closure. So I polled my committee and I started with the more conservative members of my committee, those that would be more likely to close the fishery and they were not of the opinion that the science was there to indicate that that drastic emergency was necessary. What we tried to do last year at the Legislature was move the fishery towards a 20 percent escape-ment rate. The commercial quota was one part of the that move and the restriction for recreational harvest were another part of that move. So, speaking now as a member of that group that met down at the Legislature and tried to reach a compromise, I, honestly in good faith could not recommend a closure of the recational fishery at this time. Thank you.

J. Cappel Dr. Condry it is your opinion that the red drum, that there is a problem with the red drum. you can see that there is a problem in maintaining the continued resource of the red drum if things continue as they have over the past five years.

R. Condry Oh definitely and that is historically over the past five years there was a pretty dramatic change in red drum management

last year at the Legislature. I think the record would show that I wanted a more dramatic change from a scientific standpoint. But I also think it's important that the user groups have, develop a sense of husbandry and feel like they're a part of the management decisions.

J. Cappel But you will concede at this time there is a problem with red drum escapement.

R. Condry Oh yes that's unequivocal.

J. Cappel Thank you

D. Vinet Wouldn't it be wise to do what we're trying to do and expect the Legislature in April to put a small creel limit on fishermen on red drum. By that time they could maybe lower the creel limit and open the red drum back to the red drum fishermen and it would be as high as fifty (50). I mean if somebody wants to fish recreational with red drum, recreational, you can put four people in the boat and come in with 200 fish. And this is what these people, most of these people, a lot of these people are gonna do so we're stopping one end and leaving the other end open, I mean there's a gap in there that's not right to some people.

R. Condry Yes, Dale I can't argue, I understand what you're saying. All these facts were available to the public and to the Legislature last year and when we discussed the quota Gerald Adkins testified that he felt that that quota would be met September 1st of last year and it technically was met on the commercial harvest and yet because of legal rulings evidently the quota was continued for another time period so the commercial quota that we talked about at the Legislature everyone that was there knew that at some point in the near future the commercial harvest would be stopped and a recreational harvest would continue. I'm treading on thin ice because I'm getting into the political arena and I'm not a politician.

J. Cappel Mr. Chairman, Just one comment please, regardless of user groups, I think we have to keep in mind that it is the foremost mandate of this Commission to protect, conserve and replenish the natural resources of this state. I think that we have heard scientific comment that does state that this particular species is having a problem. I feel that there is no further way that I can honestly approach this problem without taking the actions that we have proposed at this time.

J. Jenkins Being this item was not on the agenda and it really been no time for discussion by the people interested in it, there was no comment on it yesterday, I would like to ask if there's anybody in the audience today that would like to speak against this resolution.

Excerpt from Minutes of January 7, 1988
(cont)

Mark Hilzim
Terry LeBlanc
Henry Truelove
Sammy Baulk

... I would like to know if the Wildlife and Fisheries or one of the scientists' groups would have any kind of a survey where they pooled some of these checks on the fishermen, creel limits or whatever and see if they had a average per day or per outing per fisherman size or number or weight that showed up?

J. Palmisano Gerald, Mr, Adkins, does the Department have any statistics on what the recreational catch on an annual basis represents in numbers and pounds if you have it?

G. Adkins Mr. Chairman, I don't have any of that information with me at the present time. It is available in several publications. I can tell you that prior to 1986 according to every survey that had been done whether it was a university, state, federal or private organization, the recreational catch was greater than that of the commercial catch for both spotted sea trout and red drum. In the year 1986 that catch was approximately equal as far as weight goes, however, one of the important things to consider is the fact that the recreational fisherman ordinarily catches smaller fish than does the commercial simply because the commercial uses a device which categorizes his catch, that's called a net. One of the other things I think that we could consider is the average size of red-fish were caught by recreational fishermen during 1984 was approximately 15.7 inches and the average size of the spotted seatrout caught by the records of that same time was 13.5 inches, if my memory serves me correctly. We used that information when we looked at the problem and made the recommendations to the Legislature that we made, we used size limits, average catch and so forth. Thank you.

J. Palmisano Does that answer your question?

Thank you very much.